



STATE OF TENNESSEE
TENNESSEE COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

TCCY Conference Room
Andrew Johnson Tower, Ninth Floor
Thursday, May 13, 2004
4:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Committee Members Present

Cindy Durham, Chair
Trudy Hughes, Vice-Chair
Johnny Horne, Secretary
Beverly Cosley
Jim Ford
Tim Goldsmith
Linda Miller
Joetta Yarbrow

Staff Present

Linda O'Neal, Executive Director
Pam Brown
Richard Kennedy
Faye Mangrum
Debrah Stafford
Pat Wade

Committee Members Absent

Drew Johnson

Chair Durham called the meeting to order at 4:15 p.m.

I. Approval of February Minutes

MOTION: IT WAS MOVED (FORD) AND SECONDED (HUGHES) TO APPROVE THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FEBRUARY 2004 MINUTES. UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

II. Review of Committee Reports/Action

A. Grant Review Committee – Jim Ford, Acting Chair for Joetta Yarbrow, Chair

Committee has one action item.

The Committee met May 12, 2004 to review the Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws (EUDL) grants. Total funds of \$338,400 were available. Seven grants totaling \$270,475 were approved leaving a balance to award of \$67,925.

Action Item

With the permission of Chair Durham, the Committee will meet quickly during the break of the Commission meeting to review four options regarding distribution of the residual funds:

1. Spread over grants approved.
2. Give the new applicants not approved 40 days to reapply for funding, which would be for a ten month operating period. The Committee would review and present at the July Commission meeting.
3. Roll the money over to next year, which would be more troublesome accounting wise.
4. Return the funds to the federal government.

The Committee will make a recommendation to the Commission after their review.

EUDL grants to be recommended to the Commission for approval:

1. Juvenile Assessment Program - Loudon County	\$ 15,084
2. Brownsville EUDL Project	\$ 20,590
3. MDC Underage Drinking Task Force – Knoxville	\$ 50,000
4. Center for Youth Issues - Cheatham County	\$ 63,333
5. EUDL Project – Bradley County	\$ 14,222
6. Youth in Action – MADD Tennessee	\$ 81,000
7. Bristol Underage Drinking Program	<u>\$ 26,246</u>
TOTAL.....	\$270,475

B. Budget and Data Committee – Jim Ford, Chair

Committee has no action item.

The Rural Poverty Study publication, *The Rural South: Listening to Families in Alabama, Kentucky and Tennessee*, was discussed.

The State of the Child in Tennessee 2003 has been completed and is at the printer.

The National KIDS COUNT Data Book will be released June 3, 2004.

O’Neal/Brown submitted a FrameWorks Training Proposal to the Casey Foundation for TCCY to be the host agency for training fifty people from across the country.

The Advocate is on the web site and is receiving increased hits. Of the total hits to the web site *The Advocate* received 3.7 percent in January, 4.1 percent in February, 5.3 percent in March, and 6.5 percent in April. In January the web site received 82,842 total hits and received 143,490 in April.

The budget report is in the packets. TCCY is within their budget year-to-date. Salaries are going to be approximately 98 percent of amount budgeted.

During TCCY's recent inventory process, certain items of equipment (four old laptop computers and one old portable printer) were not located. The value of this equipment new was \$7,800 and it is worth approximately \$400 now. The equipment was old enough it should have already been sent to surplus inventory. According to procedures, O'Neal wrote a letter to the Comptroller of the Treasury stating the facts of searches done and the procedures put in place to try to prevent this from happening again. The Commission expects to receive a letter from the Comptroller instructing us to remove this equipment from our inventory list.

C. Children's Services Committee – Tim Goldsmith, Chair

Committee has one action item.

Papica and Cash gave update on the Ombudsman program.

Reports on CPORT regional reviews were given by Chester (Southwest), Haynes (Hamilton County), and McLeod (Upper Cumberland). The adequacy of the service system was substantially down in each region for a variety of reasons.

Wade talked about Department of Children's Services (DCS) interfaces and reviewed the DCS organizational chart. She talked about plans and changes. The greatest thing reported is DCS reliance on TCCY and especially CPORT in terms of how they are doing and their heavy involvement with us in terms of doing reviews and assessments across their system. The DCS Commissioner was clear about running things that are data driven. She believes you cannot manage what you cannot measure.

Wade talked about the Woodland Hills Study.

1. Committee will recommend a full report on the Woodland Hills Study be presented to the Commission at the July meeting.

D. Councils Committee – Linda Miller, Chair

Committee has one action item.

The Committee had a very good meeting. They heard reports from the six regional coordinators not presenting to the full Commission. They are doing so much in their regions and the reports were impressive.

Children's Advocacy Days (CAD) was very well attended and successful. Work has already started on CAD 2005.

The Children's Caucus meeting is scheduled for June 16, 2004. The focus of the meeting will be foster care. Out-of-state presenters will include the Pew Commission on Children in Foster Care.

TCCY Strategies for Participation with Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network (TSPN) were discussed. The executive director of TSPN is Scott Ridgway, a former TCCY employee. The collaboration TCCY will be doing with them has a lot to do with communication awareness and public education. We are not committed for any money.

We would add a link on our web site, publicize suicide prevention/intervention training events through *The Advocate*, and publicize ASIST trainings through the regional councils. Support could be provided through Juvenile Justice funding as budgetary constraints allow. We would serve as a co-sponsor for the TSPN statewide training conference when not prohibited by budgetary constraints. This endorsement would add support to what TSPN is doing and show we see the importance of this network.

1. Committee will recommend the Commission endorse the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth Strategies for Participation with Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network.

E. Juvenile Justice/Minority Issues Committee – Beverly Cosley, Chair

Committee has two action items.

The Committee had an interesting meeting.

The DMC Task Force Retreat will be July 13-14, 2004 at Montgomery Bell State Park. Judges from across the state are coming to this training/interaction program. James Bell of the Burns Institute will do a presentation explaining what the DMC Task Force does and how to interact better to help communities as a whole.

AmeriCorp* VISTAs are in place. The appointments have been made in Hamilton County and Shelby County. We are still looking for VISTA workers for Knox County and Davidson County.

The DSO violations in Shelby County were up considerably. O’Neal wrote a letter to Judge Kenneth Turner expressing our concern. During the month of January 2004 they had 11 DSO violations with 2 being “DCS failed to pickup child”, leaving nine as, “Parent failed to pickup child”. For February, there were 23 violations with 22 “Parents failed to pickup child” and only one “DCS failed to pickup child.” Commission Member Maness gave an update on reason for increased DSO violations.

The Grant Review Committee reviewed 16 Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws (EUDL) grant applications. Six continuation grants and one new application will be recommended for approval.

The letter from David J. Doi, Coalition for Juvenile Justice (CJJ) Executive Director, and the information sheet on Fiscal Year 05 Federal Appropriations were discussed. When former grantees or applicants start talking about their lack of funding, they should be asked to email or fax their Members of Congress expressing their disappointment over budget cuts and telling them what programs will have to cease because of not being funded. Stafford commented the Title V and Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG) are the two main grants that have been drastically reduced. We want these funds to go up at least back to their 2002 award level.

The Juvenile Justice and Mental Health Study conducted under the direction of Craig Anne Heflinger of Vanderbilt checking on different teaching facilities and other issues around juvenile detention centers and temporary holding resources to see if they are

providing the proper mental health programs, counseling, etc. was discussed. The Committee would like to invite her to report the findings.

1. The Committee will recommend Craig Ann Heflinger report the findings of the Juvenile Justice and Mental Health Study to the Commission at the July meeting.

O'Neal added that TCCY was extensively involved in collecting this data. Since Craig Ann Heflinger will not be available to do the presentation, TCCY staff will have her power point and will do the presentation.

The Tennessee Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (TCJFCJ) has not received any data from the Unicoi County Juvenile Court for the year 2003 or any data for 2004. Joan Archer, TCJFCJ Executive Director, wrote Judge David R. Shults regarding this matter. This data is important.

2. The Committee will recommend the Commission take a three way approach to getting Unicoi County to submit needed data:
 - If their state supplement (administered by TCCY) has not been paid for May, TCCY will send them a letter holding their funding for the next year if data is not received in a timely manner.
 - If the state supplement for May has been paid, TCCY will notify them future state funding will be held until data is received.
 - Commission Member Mitchell will make a personal phone call to Judge Shults inquiring to see if there is a communication problem or what the problem is in getting data to TCJFCJ.

III. Proposed Department of Human Services Child Support Guidelines - Linda O'Neal

Durham asked Commission members to review the Proposed Child Support Changes Recommendations. This is an issue of concern but whether or not action is taken on the recommendations is totally up to the Commission. O'Neal has copies of letter from Mary Frances Lyle to Virginia Lodge, Department of Human Services (DHS) Commissioner, and others expressing concerns of proposed guidelines. The Commission has Mike Adams, Assistant Commissioner, DHS, and Russ Overby, Attorney, Tennessee Justice Center, scheduled to give presentations on this issue.

O'Neal explained DHS is having hearings on these guidelines in the very near future. There is concern about the impact these guidelines will have on all children and particularly low income children. DHS had a task force that met over an extended period of time and then they basically adjourned the task force and promulgated the proposed rules without going back to the task force. A number of the task force members are upset. O'Neal has been told district attorneys are upset and there is concern among judges about the increased case loads because it actually opens all existing child support orders for revisions based on the changes in the child support guidelines.

The Tennessee Bar Association is likely to ask for delay in implementing guidelines until they can assemble the task force or stake holders again and present the revised guidelines to see if they need further refinement. They want to be sure the courts, district attorneys,

domestic relations attorneys, child advocates, and others have fully had an opportunity to provide input into these guidelines.

Ford asked why DHS feels they need to revise the rules. O'Neal explained that they clearly need to revise and make changes to address some Supreme Court decisions that require changes specifically around the issue of children who are born subsequent to a child support order. She talked about the current process and the effect of proposed changes. Most states have moved to an income shares model. The objection is not necessarily the income shares model but how DHS set up the new model.

IV. Other Business

The TennCare reform legislation passed last week and was signed by the Governor. O'Neal, TCCY staff, and other advocates have been reviewing the changes. They would like for the Commission to go on record making recommendations that give TCCY framework to work in the rule making process and the advocacy around the concerns of TennCare reform. We need to keep reminding people to keep children in mind and try to minimize the adverse impact on children and families in a whole range of areas.

Goldsmith asked if a piece could be added regarding more equitable funding for children with mental health needs across the state. O'Neal suggested that he share with the Commission when mental health funds get distributed on per capita basis there is substantially lower funding in Shelby County and West Tennessee. More equitable funding for mental health services across the state could be added to the recommendations under the Children's Mental Health section.

The Impact of TennCare Reform on Children Recommendations will be presented to the full Commission.

An email regarding Mary Lee, Youth Commission Member, being selected for the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute Internship in Washington was sent to TCCY Commission members and staff. Through the generosity of Commission members and staff, she will be presented with a \$466 VISA Bucks card tomorrow to use here or in Washington.

Meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Minutes Submitted by:

Faye Mangrum, Administrative Assistant

Minutes Approved by:

Cindy Durham, Chair